

FY 2011 INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS
REQUESTED PROJECTS
HONORABLE SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
TX-27

(alphabetical order by project name)

Project Name: Banco Morales Reservoir
Recipient: Brownsville Public Utilities Board
1425 Robinhood Drive
P.O. Box 3270
Brownsville, TX 78523-3270

\$25,790,900 is requested in federal funding for this project. The purpose of the Project is to impound and allow beneficial use of water from the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Brownsville, Texas. This water is currently allowed to flow into the Gulf of Mexico. The Project is needed to meet the future municipal water needs of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB). Existing municipal and industrial water supply sources for the BPUB cannot satisfy the anticipated future water needs for the region.

The location of the Project is selected because Brownsville is downstream from all of the major water users along the river. The reservoir would provide a pool of water from which the city can pump water, and it captures excess flows on the lower Rio Grande for municipal use. Currently, once the water is released from Falcon Dam, no opportunity exists to impound water at a downstream location in the event of rain or changed conditions.

Project Name: Brazilian Pepper Management
Recipient: Port Aransas, City of
701 W. Avenue A
Port Aransas, TX 78373

\$400,000 is requested in federal funding to protect the integrity of Texas' natural ecosystems from the biological degradation caused by the invasion of Brazilian Pepper plant. The invasion of this aggressive weed poses a serious threat to species diversity in many of South Texas' native ecosystems, and is eliminating many indigenous sources of food for Texas wildlife. In addition, the Brazilian pepper also poses several health and safety problems; direct contact with the sap can cause severe and persistent skin irritation. Airborne chemical emissions from the blooms can also cause sinus and nasal congestion, headaches, and eye irritation. Consumption of foliage by horses and cattle can cause hemorrhages, intestinal compaction, and fatal colic. Birds that feed excessively on the fruit have been known to become intoxicated and later die. This is particularly problematic because Port Aransas is home to many endangered birds including the piping plover. The Port Aransas Brazilian Pepper Eradication project will reduce the plants impact by

maintaining pepper-free areas and by implementing an effective public information awareness program that will encourage support for pepper management issues. This project will create approximately 35 jobs and serve the city's 4,000 residents and over 400,000 annual visitors to Port Aransas.

Project Name: Brownsville Tire Recycling Facility
Recipient: Brownsville, City of
 1150 East Adams
 Brownsville, TX. 78522

\$1,974,400 in federal funding is requested to develop a long term solution to scrap tires. It will reduce environmental and health risks associated with scrap tires; increase tire recycling for such items as rubberized asphalt which include the engineering benefits of safer road conditions, significant reduction in road noise, and life cycle cost savings due to longer life; and decrease costs associated with clean up.

Project Name: Livable City Project -Wetlands Creation, Stormwater Management,
 Regional Park Development
Recipient: Corpus Christi, City of
 1201 Leopard St.
 Corpus Christi, TX 78401

\$250,000 in federal funding is requested for this project which meets three important goals of the community:

Project Goal #1: The project seeks to improve water quality in Oso Creek and Oso Bay by using a series of sediment ponds and constructed wetlands. The project calls for constructed wetlands to serve as a filtration system to remove pollutants; sedimentation basins to remove sediment and mitigate flooding; a detention system to mitigate the effects of runoff from future development; and rainwater collection systems for park use.

Project Goal #2: Reduce catastrophic flooding effects that routinely occur after most rain events. Because of the nature of our .clay soil, water is more likely to quickly run off and flood large low-lying areas throughout Nueces County. The research project, in conjunction with research currently being performed by Nueces County and Nueces River Authority, will help to determine how best to diminish the flooding effects and to identify future locations and designs for the construction of tributaries and retention ponds. .

Project Goal #3: Ensure sound management of coastal resources by allowing for compatible economic development and multiple human uses of the coastal zone. An important objective of the project will be to allow the public to enjoy the results of the natural habitat restoration. Year-round outdoor recreational and educational activities will be developed to serve local residents and visitors. Central themes incorporated into the park plans include the environment, education, and outdoor recreation. A business plan and conceptual and preliminary design plan were previously submitted for consideration. See www.txregionalpark.org for additional information.

Project Name: Robindale Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion funding
Recipient: Brownsville Public Utilities Board
1425 Robinhood Drive
P.O. Box 3270
Brownsville, TX 78523-3270

\$23,980,454 in federal funding is requested for expansion of this facility. Brownsville PUB completed a Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE) and determined that ammonia is the primary toxicant of concern. BPUB recognizes that the treatment plant process design (contact stabilization) is inadequate to remove ammonia under all conditions. BPUB anticipates a reduction in permitted capacity, if no action is taken, and stricter effluent requirements during the upcoming permit renewal process. The current Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) permit is valid until July 1, 2010. The project will accommodate the north service area's wastewater treatment needs in the vicinity of Brownsville, Texas through Year 2025.

Brownsville PUB proposes to modify the digesters from aerobic to anaerobic and build a combined heat and power facility to generate electricity from the digestion of biosolids. The improvement meets the requirements of being 'Green,' and BPUB anticipates an annual operating savings of nearly \$400,000 by implementing this project. The anaerobic digesters will reduce the volume of biosolids hauled to the landfill, lower the electrical power demand of the plant, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from power generation and hauling.

Project Name: Robindale Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion language
Recipient: Brownsville Public Utilities Board
1425 Robinhood Drive
P.O. Box 3270
Brownsville, TX 78523-3270

Legislative language and report language allows for previously appropriated funds to be obligated to the Robindale Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Project Name: Storm Water Project
Recipient: South Padre Island, City of
4501 Padre Blvd
South Padre Island, TX 78597

\$500,000 in federal funding is requested for this project. Drainage systems in the Laguna Madre region located in the South tip of Texas are important to our economy. In fact, with the primary source of revenue being tourism, drainage is an even more critical component. After Hurricane Dolly in 2008, the Tri-City region decided new ways of providing adequate drainage were necessary. A regional drainage plan provides data for the entire region's creation of adequate drainage systems needed to enhance public infrastructure's support of a tourist driven economy. The primary purpose of the project enables each city to formulate a plan for enduring storm surge and flooding resulting in the least economic harm to infrastructure and businesses.

The lower Laguna Madre Region's major economy is tourism. Over 5.1 million people visit South Padre Island each year. Currently the only accessibility to the Island is the Queen Isabella Causeway located in Port Isabel. The South Padre Island Golf Course is located in Laguna Vista. All three economies are dependent on each other for a vital, healthy economy. Hurricane's annually wreak havoc on the economies in this area.

An analysis of this area by the National Weather Service states much of the damage of Dolly's rainfall was "primarily due to low lying areas and poor drainage locations". Without proper drainage and knowledge of all low lying areas the Laguna Madre region runs the risk of future damages preventing economic growth and competitiveness. The height of Hurricane season also lies within the height of tourist season. Without proper drainage systems all three entities face potential long term and short term economic impacts.

Project Name: Wildlife Habitat Acquisition in Rio Grande Valley
Recipient: Friends of National Wildlife
901 Business Park Dr #500
Mission, TX 78572

\$30,000,000 is requested in Land and Water Conservation funding for land acquisition for the Laguna Atascosa NWR and the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWF.